

M. A. Service
[Calendar No., 288.]

49TH CONGRESS,
1ST SESSION.

S. 1730.

[Report No. 185.]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 3, 1886.

Mr. EUSTIS, from the Committee on Epidemic Diseases, submitted a report (No. 185) accompanied by the following bill; which was read the first and second times by a unanimous consent.



A BILL

Providing for the appointment of a commission to investigate the truth of alleged discoveries of the specific cause of yellow fever, and of a method of preventing that disease by inoculation, and to obtain all information possible as to the cause and prevention of that disease.

Whereas protection against yellow fever is of the highest national importance, affecting our commerce, foreign and domestic, the health of our sea-ports, efficiency and safety of the Army and Navy (perchance necessarily operating in an infected region), the lives of the sailors of our merchant marine, and also virtually involving the social, industrial, and commercial growth of Tennessee and the Southern Atlantic and Gulf States of the Union, including such prosperous and populous cities as Memphis, Charleston, Savannah, Pensacola, Mobile, New Orleans, and Galveston; and

Whereas there is a large and accumulating mass of testimony that

the power of protecting against yellow fever has been discovered in the inoculation of the essential germ or cause of the disease, by methods distinctly formulated and made available, there being cited in support of the discovery declarations and numerous instances of the successful application of the methods, emanating from Doctors Freire and Carmona, medical scientists, at the head of the biological departments in the highest institutions of learning in Brazil and Mexico, authorized by and under the patronage of their respective Governments; and

Whereas it is a manifest public duty that, under the sanction and authority of the United States, the said discoveries should be thoroughly investigated, tested, and, if found to be efficacious, made available for the protection of our people: Therefore,

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That the President be, and is hereby, authorized to appoint
 4 a commission which shall proceed to Mexico, and, if neces-
 5 sary, to the Central American states, Havana, and Brazil,
 6 and there make a careful and complete investigation of, and
 7 report, after thorough examination, the methods of inocula-
 8 tion pursued and their effectiveness in protecting against yel-
 9 low fever, together with all other information relative to that
 10 disease which may be discovered by experiment or otherwise.

1 SEC. 2. That the said commission shall consist of three
 2 persons, one or more of whom shall be an officer or officers
 3 of the Government, a medical man or men of known ability
 4 and special attainment in biological research, particularly in

5 the department of microscopic investigation and methods of
6 culture of the essential germs causative of the infectious and
7 contagious diseases. The other member or members of the
8 commission shall be a medical man or men not an officer or
9 officers of the Government, to be appointed by the President,
10 of recognized ability, based upon long and ample experience
11 in observation and treatment of yellow fever, competent to
12 give expert consideration to all phases of the symptoms and
13 course of that disease in any form wherein the phenomena of
14 the disease may present themselves, whether induced in the
15 course of pestilential invasion or in purposely devised in-
16 oculation.

1 SEC. 3. That the commission be authorized to employ
2 such skilled assistants as it may deem necessary, and to fix the
3 rate of their compensation: *Provided*, That the entire ex-
4 penses of the commission shall be limited to the amount of
5 the appropriation herein named.

1 SEC. 4. That the commission shall make, within twelve
2 months of its appointment, a detailed report of its labors to
3 the President of the United States, to be submitted by him
4 to Congress; but if necessary for the accomplishment of its
5 work, it may continue its labors two years, making also a
6 final report: *Provided*, That that portion of the report cov-
7 ering the expenses of the commission shall be made under
8 oath.

1 SEC. 5. That the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars,
2 or so much thereof as may be actually required to pay the
3 necessary traveling and other expenses, and the salary of the
4 member or members of the commission who shall be ap-
5 pointed from civil life, and its employees, be, and is hereby,
6 appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise
7 appropriated.

1 SEC. 6. That a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars
2 per annum, to be fixed by the President, shall be paid as a
3 recompense to the member or to each member of the afore-
4 said commission not already in the service of the Government,
5 the officer or officers detailed from the service being entitled
6 only to their actual and necessary traveling expenses.

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1856—MARCH 3.—Read the first and second times by unanimous consent.